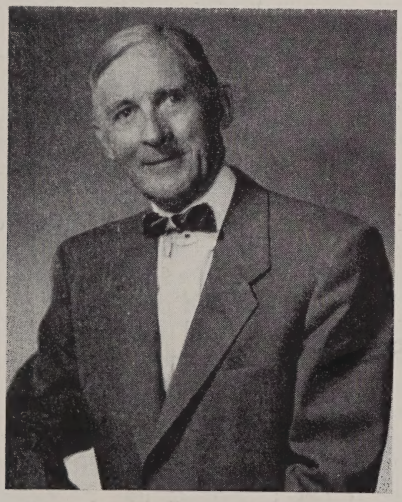
# The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME XIII SEPTEMBER, 1957 No. 7


## Greetings to Hampden

**A Message From PATRICK J. SULLIVAN, M. D., President, Mass. Medical Society**



The State Society extends most cordial greetings to the members of the Hampden District Medical Society. You are to be commended for your epoch-making achievements, for your faithfulness to the tradition of our Parent Society, and for the many outstanding leaders you have contributed to Massachusetts and to American medicine.

Although your record of achievement is most laudable, it is no reason for sitting back now. There is so much more to be done. In selecting your committees try to include men who are interested enough to attend not only local meetings, but also those held in Boston.

With the disappearance of the unapproved medical school from the scene, it is proper that our Censors concentrate more on "Ethics" and on "Procedure". New members should be expected to understand more thoroughly our Code of Ethic. They should be expected also to familiarize themselves with our by-laws and with the rules and regulations by which our Societies are governed. Loose ethics and lack of knowledge of Society procedure cannot and should not be held lightly. It should be stressed also that Society membership is not to be looked upon as a routine matter but rather as a great privilege and honor.

Your grievance committee, too, should be alert and vigorous. It should try to avert and to correct misunderstandings which so often lead to poor public relations. It should also try to settle many of the more serious offenses before they reach the Committee on Ethics and Discipline of the state Society. The work of all other committees is equally important. Most valuable of all is a membership which shows its interest by attending meetings regularly and by expressing its readiness and willingness to serve in committee whenever called upon.

By pulling together in this manner we will enable our Society to even more adequately work for the common good of medicine and the health of the public.

### NEXT MEETING

September 24th, 6:30 p. m., at Rovelli's Restaurant, 1396 Boston Road, Springfield.

Dr. Allen G. Rice, Sec. (See page 10)

# Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

Published monthly except July and August.
This Issue 650 Copies.



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## A CENTURY OF BENEVOLENCE

(This year the Massachusetts Benevolent Society is observing its 100th anniversary. To commemorate the event, and to arouse more interest in this worthy organization the Hippocrat takes pleasure in presenting the items below. Editor).

Dear Hippocrat:

I am delighted to learn that the Hampden Hippocrat is planning to feature the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society in its September issue.

Perhaps you might include in full or in part, since it has not been published elsewhere, my remarks at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society last May. I am enclosing a copy.

Paul D. White, M. D., President
Mass. Medical Benevolent Society


Address Business Correspondence to:
Dr. John E. Leary
146 Chestnut Street — Springfield, Mass.
Telephone: RE 4-3381


## THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
### (Excerpts from Dr. White's Manuscript)

At a meeting of the Boston Medical Book Club in December, 1856 a Committee was appointed to formulate a plan for an association for the relief of destitute physicians or their families. In the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of April 2, 1857, a hundred years ago, there appeared the following item:—"A numerously attended meeting of members of the profession was held at the rooms of the Massachusetts Medical Society in Temple Place on Thursday, March 19th, to take measures for founding a Benevolent Society among the physicians of Massachusetts".

The brief articles of the Association preceding the By-Laws read as follows:—

"Whereas it sometimes happens that worthy members of the medical profession become reduced in circumstances, we, whose names are underwritten (all being residents of Massachusetts), do hereby associate ourselves as a body corporate, for the relief of such, especially, as become members of this Society, or of their families, should they need assistance; and of such other members of the medical profession or their families as may be deemed by the Society suitable objects of its beneficience.

"The name of this association shall be the 'Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society.'"

During the last hundred years many worthy individual members or families of doctors of Massachusetts have been greatly aided without fanfare or ostentation by this Society. However, as time has passed, it has become through the years but little known or at least its importance has not been adequately recognized by the membership of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Now, after a hundred years of invaluable


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Springfield

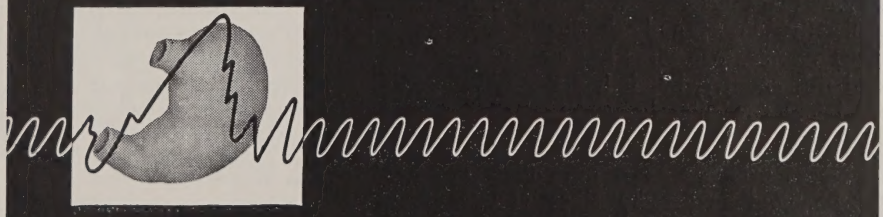
services, it wishes itself to be better known in order to be supported more fully by the doctors themselves. During the last few years there has been instituted the beginning of an increase in membership. In 1954 there was only 1 member of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society out of every 32 State Medical Society members. At the present time in 1957 there is one member out of every 14. In 12 of the 20 districts there are fewer than 10 members. In a few districts there is a fair percentage but even in Bristol South which has the largest number of members only about one-third of the doctors are members. Even in the most populous of the districts, namely Norfolk and Suffolk, there are fewer than 10 per cent of the physicians enrolled. In one district there are no members at all and in three other districts only one member in each. Surely we can and should do better than this.

In my address before the Society I quoted from Bayard Taylor as follows: "Mens' Lives are Chains of Chances". One never knows when an evil chance through illness, accident, or some financial disaster may render one's self and his family destitute but there is one chance that we can all take which is a positive one. It is always much more pleasant to give than to receive. I would urge all of you here to take that chance to help some more unfortunate fellow members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Dr. A. William Reggio of Medfield, Mass., Secretary of the Society, would be only too happy, as would we other officers and members, to have you join us.

I shall close this brief account by citing a few examples of several families whom we have been helping during recent years. Before I do I want to make it clear that this Society is a private association of physicians and not an official part of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It has been felt that the purposes are better served by maintaining this private and confidential support rather than to enroll it as a routine function of the Society as a whole. Therefore,

(Continued on Page 18)

**for "the butterfly stomach"**



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## "ASIATIC FLU"

Periodically a new phase of an old problem comes to the fore and not infrequently is blown up by publicity to a degree out of proportion to its real import. Such is the case with the currently popular concern over the exotically named "Asiatic or Oriental Flu", which is nothing more than a new variant of Influenza A virus.

Clincally this infection differs very little from the influenza which has been occurring hereabouts for the last ten to fifteen years. The disease is relatively mild and self-limited (lasting 3-5 days) with essentially no primary mortality according to currently available reports. Moreover, there have been no reports of severe pneumonias associated with the disease. Incidentally, antibotics are not effective against the influenza virus they should not be used for uncomplicated influenza infections. Rather, antibiotics should be reserved for those persons infected with bacteria which have been identified and whose susceptibility to antibiotics determined.

The attack rate in some large cities of the Far East has reached as high as 25% in some segments of the population. The mortality rates have been less than one per 1,000 cases with the deaths usually in infants and debilitated persons. This influenza virus has already invaded this country, but it has not as yet reaked any particular havoc.

A vaccine with a claimed effectiveness of 70% is available as a preventive. It must be used preparedly since at least seven days are required for immunity to develop and this begins to wane after two months. There is general agreement at present that wholesale vaccination programs for the entire population are not indicated and that watchful waiting is the policy. However, vaccination might be recommended for young infants and those persons in whom severe respiratory complications could be fatal because of other underlying diseases. Moreover, it might be recommended for certain groups, such as hospital staffs, to prevent major breakdowns in service or production if an epidemic should strike.

Although influenza is not a reportable disease in Massachusetts, your local Health Department would welcome being informed when and if influenza or other respiratory infections become unusually prevalent.

John C. Ayres, M.D.

## THE 19TH HOLE

The following were the winners at The Wesson Memorial Hospital Golf Tournament which was held on June 19 at The Oxford Country Club:

Dr. Bernard Canter tied with Dr. B. Alicandri for low gross with 87 for the Edward Katz Trophy and the Walter P. Gunn Trophy; Dr. Roger Hebert, low net winner with 70 won the Pfizer Trophy.

* * *

The Mercy-Springfield Hospital Golf Tournament held June 26 at The Springfield Country Club was won this year by the Mercy staff, returning the coveted cup to the Carew Street institution. Individual winners were, Low gross: Drs. J. J. Sady, William Dale and Raymond Fanelli, in that order. Low net: Drs. Ambrose J. Connelly, K. L. McEwen and J. Corriveau, triple tie.

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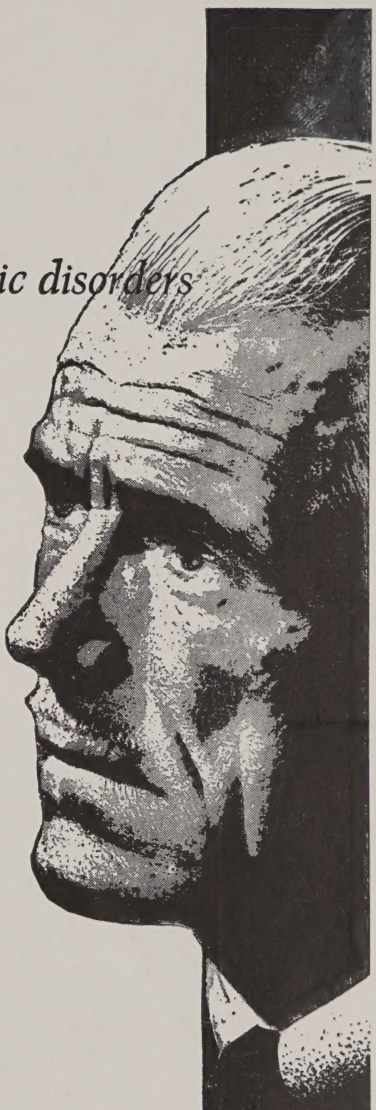

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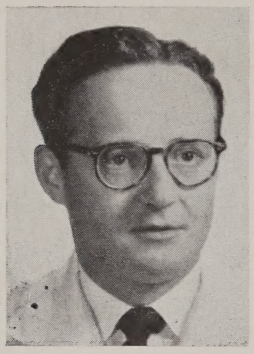
## NEW MEMBERS



PAUL J. AUDETTE, M. D.

**Born:** August 2, 1917, Swanton, Vermont

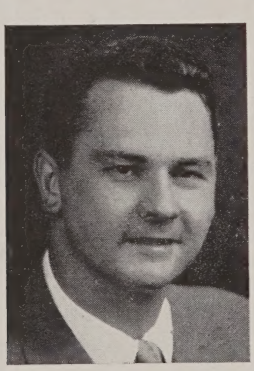
**Office:** 1570 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

**Medical Degree:** University of Vermont, 1943.

**Internship:** Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, Connecticut.

**Specialty:** Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat

**Home** Address: 25 Villa Street, Longmeadow. Mass.



JOHN F. GRIFFIN, M. D.

**Born:** Springfield, Mass.

**Office:** 69 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.

**Medical** Degree: Georgetown University, 1951.

**Internship:** Bowman-Gray Hospital, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**Specialty:** Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

**Home Address:** 46 Kimberly Avenue, Springfield, Mass.

## MEDICAL QUACKERY

According to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield:

Use of the mails to promote medical quackery is at the highest level in history.

Medical frauds today are more lucrative than any other criminal activity.

Medical fraud cases now pending represent an annual loss to the public of about $50,000,000.

Medical frauds most common today, in order of popularity, are "dietless" reducing schemes, and "sure cures" for cancer, arthritis, skin trouble, baldness, and "lost manhood." Bust development gimmicks are also on the best-seller lists.

The latest in "cancer cure" devices is supposed to contain "atomic" material.

Mr. Summerfield urged citizens to report suspected mail frauds to the post-office department for prompt investigation.

---

## DO YOU KNOW?

In 1900, life expectancy at birth was 49 years; today it is 70.

* * *

The "common cold" affects 25% of all U. S. working adults in January and February alone.

* * *

Among the nation's 17,000,000 children under six, accidents cause more deaths than disease.

* * *

High priests of several South American Indian tribes chewed leaves from the cocoa plant, which contains the anesthetic, cocaine, and spat the juice on a patient's body where an operation had to be performed.

Sc. N. L.

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*Usual adult dosage:*
2 tablets ½-hour before meals and 2 to 4 at bedtime (or 2 tablets four times daily).

Pamine-Phenobarbital Elixir containing 1.25 mg. methscopolamine bromide, and 8 mg. (⅛ gr.) phenobarbital per 5 cc. teaspoonful. In pint bottles.

*Usual adult dosage:*
2 teaspoonfuls four times daily.

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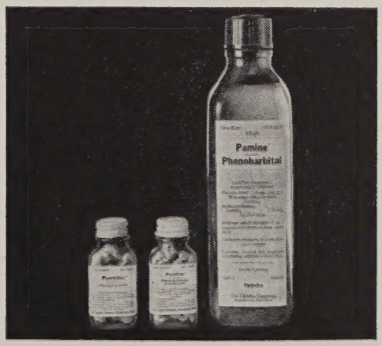


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## CORRESPONDENCE

### THE CHIROPRACTOR AND THE LAW

Dear Hippocrat:

Not long ago I answered an emergency call to the home of a woman who had evidently died in her sleep. Upon inquiry I learned that she had been ill for some time, and that she had been under the care of a chiropractor during the course of her last illness. Under the circumstances, the medical examiner was notified and was familiarized with all the facts of the case.

Whoever the chiropractor, he was obivously practicing without a license, for, as is well known, chiropractic is illegal in our commonwealth. Only recently the state legislature again refused to permit licensure of this cult notwithstanding the all-out effort by a member of the legislature who himself was a self-confessed practitioner of chiropractic.

Something obviously is wrong. If we are to assume, as indeed we must, that chiropractic is illegal in this state, why, then, are its practitioners allowed to go unpunished? Surely, if you or I were to practice medicine without a license we would not stay out of jail very long. Yet, this sect somehow continues to flourish and to produce the means for the annual battle over licensure.

Ralph T. Miller, M. D.

(The above letter was submitted for comment to our Legislative Councilor, Dr. Louis E. Hathaway, Jr. and to Mr. Everett R. Spencer, Jr., Director Public Relations and Administrator of The Mass. Medical Society. Their remarks follow. Editor.)

Dr. Louis E. Hathaway, Jr.:

"I thoroughly agree with Dr. Miller's comments. I have been trying since 1946 to find the answer to the lack of prosecution of this illegal practice. Evidently the chiropractors must feel some sense of protective security when they openly list themselves in the classified section of telephone directories in the communities of this state. I have asked pointed questions of officers of the State Medical Society on several occasions, and up to the present time no one has given a tangible answer.

"It is my guess that any prosecution for this type of illegal practice has to be carried out through the Attorney General's office in conjunction with the State Police. Currently, this could only occur at the request of some dissatisfied patient who would bring charges personally.

"I will look into this matter immediately in more detail and report in the near future."

Mr. Everett R. Spencer, Jr.:

"The problem raised in Dr. Miller's letter is certainly a tough one.

"Chiropractors are arrested from time to time for practicing medicine without a license. As I recall, there were two chiropractors in Chicopee recently fined for illegal practice.

"Apparently the State Police act only upon an official complaint. I'm sure they don't go around looking for and checking on chiropractors. Physicians could initiate such a complaint, but often are reluctant to do so.

"Chiropractors will continue to practice and go unpunished unless complaints are filed with the State Police. I don't think that the general public will initiate such complaints. Physicians will have to initiate the complaints. Chances are that only those physicians who feel as strongly about it as does Dr. Miller will take the trouble to complain to the proper authorities.

"The proper authority: Captain Joseph C. Crescio, chief of detectives, Department of Public Safety, 1010 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

"It may be that such complaints could be sent here and then forwarded to the State Police. Nonetheless, local physicians would have to initiate the complaint — giving names and addresses and supporting data."

### REHABILITATION

Dear Hippocrat:

At the recent A.M.A. convention in New York the Committee on Rehabilitation presented a report which read in part " . . . Your committee heard varied testimony on the multiplicity of rehabilitation activities by several voluntary health agencies. Your committee believes that uniting the several rehabilitation services under medical leadership would be a constructive and uplifting movement." The report goes on to say: "It is further felt by your committee that a program of education in these objectives would benefit American physicians and contribute toward realization of a total concept of rehabilitation."

It is highly significant that the above principles as expressed by the A.M.A. committee are strikingly in accord with those of our own Rehabilitation Committee. What is even more significant is that the membership of Hampden District has on more than one occasion approved these very same principles.

Joseph P. Derby, M. D., Chairman
Rehabilitation Committee

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### FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

Dear Hippocrat:

Druggists are often asked to refill prescriptions for which they have no specific instructions from the physician.

In order to legally refill such prescriptions, or to refill prescriptions for which the doctor has not provided specific information, the druggist must contact the doctor and obtain his permission to refill. In addition, within seven days the doctor must send the druggist written prescriptions verifying his verbal instructions.

This is a time-consuming and awkward procedure, for both the doctor and the druggist.

The Springfield Druggists' Association respectfully requests that Physicians specify the following on their prescriptions:

1. The name and address of the patient.
2. If the prescription may be refilled, and if so how many times.
3. If the prescription is not refillable. (NR)

If all prescriptions carried this information, we think doctors and druggists would save thousands of man-hours each year now spent making telephone calls and writing and mailing duplicate prescriptions.

Edward Ekmejian, President
Springfield Druggists' Association

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RE 3-1105

COMPLIMENT

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# September Meeting

## "PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMUNITY AGAINST RADIATION FALLOUT"

The above is the topic of a panel to be presented at the first regular meeting of our 1957-58 season. This promises to be a most interesting and enlightening evening.

Participants in the panel will include Dr. John L. Tullis, Pathologist, associate of Dr. Shields Warren of Boston, Dr. Donald E. Currier of the State Civil Defense Department, and Mr. William Forrest, Springfield Civil Defense Director.

Dinner, at the expense of the Society, will be served.

Time: Tuesday, September 24th, 6:30 P. M.

Place: Rovelli's Restaurant, 1396 Boston Road, Springfield

Allen G. Rice, M. D., Secretary

**September is a good month to get into the habit of attending District Meetings regularly.**

## AMENDMENTS BY ADDING TO CHAPTER VI

**Section 9. Committee on Insurance, Labor Relations, and Industrial Accidents.** This committee shall consist of four members appointed by the president, each for a term of four years*; it shall (1) confer, when requested, with labor groups to advise them as to fee schedules that would be acceptable to members of the Society and (2) confer with insurance carriers to maintain uniform insurance forms and adjust fee schedules and physician payments and (3) review problems arising in industrial matters and recommend solutions to the District Society.

**Section 10. Committee on Malpractice and Medico-Legal Affairs.** This committee shall consist of four members appointed by the president, each for a term of four years*; it shall (1) confer, when requested, with fellows on matters of litigation and (2) meet with a similar committee of the Hampden Bar Association on medico-legal problems.

* Except that in the first year these amendments are in effect one member shall be appointed for a term of one year, another for two years, a third for three years, and a fourth for four years.

---

The above amendments are to be voted on at the September meeting of the Society.

Allen S. Rice, M. D., Secretary

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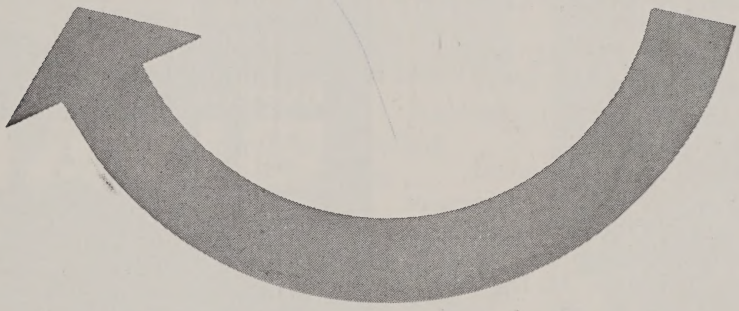

*Raudixin reduces mental tension

Tranquilizing Raudixin reduces the mental tension which plays a significant role in hypertension ... reduces mental tension as yet unrelated to physical symptoms.

*Raudixin reduces hypertension

Blood pressure lowering effect is gradual, sustained in hypertensives... little or no hypotensive effect is produced in normotensives.

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## CONNECTICUT VALLEY COURSE

Below is an approved schedule of lectures to be held this fall by the Connecticut Valley Section of the Post-Graduate Medical Institute. All speakers have been selected except for the third lecture. The first five sessions will be held weekly at the Holyoke Soldier's Home starting Friday, October 4, at 7:30 P. M. The last five sessions will be held in Northampton at the Cooley-Dickinson Hospital.

**FRIDAYS, 7:30 to 9:30 P. M.**
October 4, 1957 to December 6, 1957

1. **Evaluation of the Cardiac Patient as a Surgical and Obstetrical Risk, October 4, 1957**
   Eugene D. Robins, M. D.
   James Metcalfe, M. D.
2. **Diagnostic Problems in Cardiology, October 11, 1957**
   Laurence B. Ellis, M. D.
   Richard Bloomfield, M. D.
3. **Peripheral Vascular Insufficiency, October 18, 1957**
   Speakers to be announced
4. **Recent Advances in the Treatment of Infection, October 25, 1957**
   Arnold S. Relman, M. D.
   Louis Weinstein, M. D.
5. **Hematology, November 1, 1957**
   Mario Stefanini, M. D.
   William C. Moloney, M. D.
6. **Alcoholism—Neurological Aspects, November 8, 1957**
   Joseph M. Foley, M. D.
   Maurice Victor, M. D.
7. **Dietary Therapy, November 15, 1957**
   Franz J. Ingelfinger, M. D.
   Daniel S. Ellis, M. D.
8. **Management of Liver Diseases, November 22, 1957**
   Perry J. Culver, M. D.
   Norman Zamcheck, M. D.
9. **Aches and Pains, November 29, 1957**
   F. Dennett Adams, M. D.
10. **Rehabilitation Possibilities in Various Chronic Diseases**
    Hans Waine, M. D.
    Thomas Chalmers, M. D.

H. Paul Wakefield, M. D. Chairman


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| Vitamin D | 600 U.S.P. Units |
| Thiamine Mononitrate ($B_1$) | 3 mg. |
| Riboflavin ($B_2$) | 3 mg. |
| Pyridoxine HCl ($B_6$) | 3 mg. |
| Vitamin $B_{12}$ (cobalamin concentrate) | 3 mcg. |
| Niacinamide | 25 mg. |
| d, Calcium Pantothenate | 5 mg. |
| Folic Acid | 0.5 mg. |
| Menadione (K) | 1 mg. |
| Vitamin E (dl, alpha tocopheryl acetate) | 1 Int. Unit |
| Magnesium | 3 mg. |
| Manganese | 1 mg. |
| Copper | 1 mg. |
| Zinc | 1 mg. |
| Molybdenum | 0.2 mg. |
| Iodine | 0.1 mg. |
| Cobalt | 0.1 mg. |

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## SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY OF MEDICINE 1957-1958

| DATE | SPEAKERS | TOPIC | CLINIC |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1957 | | | |
| September 10* | Sara M. Jordan, M. D.<br>Robert E. Wise, M. D.<br>Samuel F. Marshall, M. D.<br>(Lahey) | "Lesions of the Stomach" | Mercy Hosp.<br>** |
| October 8 | Jose Delgado, M. D.<br>(Yale) | "Behavior and Effects of Drugs" | Spfld. Hosp. |
| November 12 | To be Announced | To be Announced | Wesson Hosp. |
| December 10 | John H. Talbott, M. D.<br>(Buffalo School of Medicine) | "Diagnosis and Treatment of Gout" | Mercy Hosp. |
| 1958 | | | |
| January 14 | Isador S. Ravdin, M. D.<br>(University of Penn.) | Surgical Subject | Spfld. Hosp. |
| February 11 | Robert P. Glover, M. D.<br>(Hahnemann) | "The Present Status of Surgery for Acquired Heart Disease" | Wesson Hosp. |
| March 11 | Arthur L. Watkins, M. D.<br>(Mass. General) | "Problems in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation" | Mercy Hosp. |
| April 8 | Robert E. Cook, M. D.<br>(John Hopkins) | Pediatric Subject | Spfld. Hosp. |
| May 13 | Clinical Sound Movie<br>(Annual Meeting) | | None |

* Meetings will be held at Municipal Hospital Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.
**Pre-meeting clinics will be held 5 to 6 p.m. at Mercy, Springfield or Wesson Hosps.


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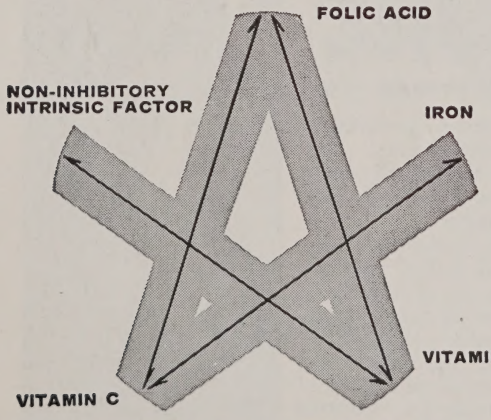


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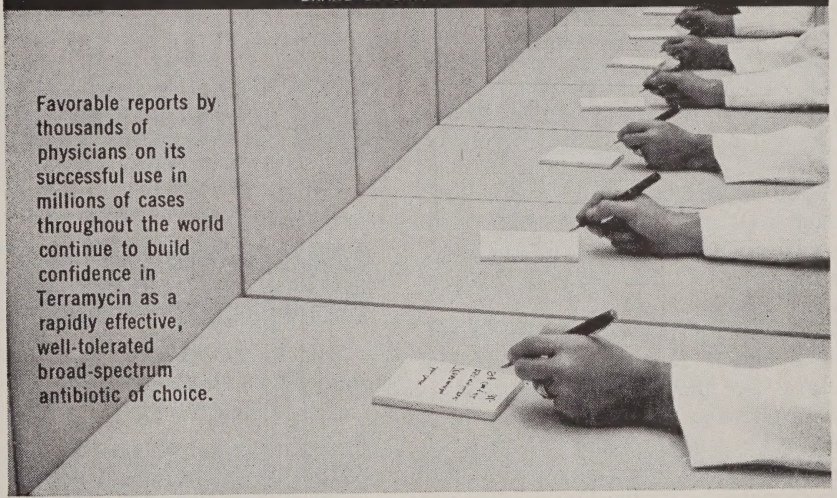

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## TRAVEL NOTES

### Impressions of English Medicine

While I spent but three weeks in England this summer, I talked intimately with half a dozen practitioners. We doctors in America, "never had it so good!"

There is some private general practice among those who prefer to employ their own doctors, but for the most part every citizen is on some doctor's panel. A busy practitioner may gross up to $6,000 a year. Some of them told me it would be hard sledding without the private patients. In the specialties the condition is better.

A specialist representing his field at the London Surgical annual meeting, was able to get a two weeks' trip to the continent, but with a very limited sum to take with him. He is at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the oldest English speaking hospital in the world, with 700 beds. There are no private patients there. The institution is not an inspiring building, although well managed, clean, and up to date in all scientific aspects. The buildings housing many of their hospital facilities are old compared to ours.

How creeping socialism can be foisted upon a nation is well exemplified by the basic fact that were the doctors of England to strike against the State, there would be no place to house and care for their patients. The hospitals are all under the regimentation of the State, and only men in accord with the government can work there.

Truly we are fortunate. Our fight of ten years ago turned out very well for us and for our patients. Let us ever be alert to what might happen here. It has in England. In discussing the future of medicine an older colleague remarked. "What do I care, it won't affect me any." Well, it may be old-fashioned, but "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty", still holds true. Young or old, we must not think of ourselves alone.

W. A. R. Chapin, M. D.

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| Niacinamide | 50 mg. |
| Pyridoxine HCl ($B_6$) | 1 mg. |
| Pantothenic Acid (as panthenol) | 10 mg. |
| Choline (as tricholine citrate) | 100 mg. |
| Inositol | 100 mg. |
| Calcium (as Ca glycerophosphate) | 48 mg. |
| Phosphorus (as Ca glycerophosphate) | 39 mg. |
| Iodine (as KI) | 1 mg. |
| Potassium | 10 mg. |
| Magnesium (as $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$) | 2 mg. |
| Zinc (as $ZnCl_2$) | 2 mg. |
| Manganese (as $MnCl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$) | 2 mg. |
| Iron (as ferrous gluconate) | 20 mg. |
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Two large eggs provide about the same amount and quality of protein as an average serving of meat.

Sc. News Let.

(Continued from Page 3)

the annual fees of the Society have not included regular dues to the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society. On occasion, additional help has been rendered by the State Society when the dues and investments have not supplied enough money for our needs.

In 1923 a doctor prominent in his community died and left his widow practically destitute except for the small earnings of her daughter. She has been aided by the Benevolent Society since 1923 with a modest amount of money supplementing other limited funds. She is now 95 years old and has recently suffered a fractured hip and still needs aid.

In 1948 a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society was so seriously paralyzed that he was totally helpless and unable to practice. At that time he was 63 years old. He has been receiving supplementary aid ever since from the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society.

As a final example, one of the most appealing of all is that of a family of three young children who were left penniless upon the relatively recent deaths of both father and mother. Under the stimulus of a doctor friend in his city, many hundreds of dollars were raised for emergency aid locally. Then the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society was asked for additional aid and this was granted. A devoted housekeeper, who had been helping the doctor and his wife, is bringing up the children with the aid raised both locally and from our Society. A result of this situation has been that every single doctor in that city's (New Bedford) medical society has joined the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society so as to take part in this support to maintain these fine young children in what has become again for them a happy home.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the many physicians in the past and at present who have aided in this important work and to pay tribute in particular to my fellow officers who have borne the brunt of the task, namely Dr. Charles Lund, Treasurer for many years, and Dr. A. William Reggio, Secretary, who has brought new life to us through his devoted service. Don't forget to sign up for membership.

Paul D. White, M. D.

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1. J.A.M.A. 163:356 (Feb. 2) 1957.

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## BENEVOLENCE AND HAMPDEN

"In faith and hope", according to Alexander Pope's Essay on Man, "the world will disagree. But all mankind's concern is charity." The idea was not known in his day, nor as supportable as it is today. The Romans had a word for it, **caritas**; and **cara** it was in ancient Ireland three centuries before St. Columba introduced the religion of Rome. It meant "all men are brothers because they are the sons of God".

Eleemosynary as that all sounds, the fact remains that charity before the second half of the nineteenth century was still in the blueprint stage. It is true that in Hippocrates' time physicians did take patients into their own homes for care, but for the most part they were well-to-do neurotics who could well afford to pay. The Romans, too, maintained valetudinaria for treatment of sick slaves and lazarettes for the military victims. Then St. Luke and other early Christians applied their tenets to the care of ailing in a tradition that produced the first St. Basil's for the treatment of the halt, the lame and the blind. At the end of the fourth century Fabiola established a similar institution in Rome to care for all without consideration of creed or color.

But alas, during the Middle Ages hospitals sank to the dark, ill-ventilated and overcrowded level of Bedlam. Not until women took over in the latter half of the 19th century did charity become live and truly functional. The name of Florence Nightingale, 'the Lady with the Lamp', forever will be associated with the organization of nursing and hospitals from Balaklava to Sevastapol. Similarly Clara Barton of Massachusetts will be remembered for her work with soldiers in Civil War, and for organizing the American Red Cross. Later in Chicago, Jane Addams won acclaim for her famous Hull House activities in social service.

All of the credit however should not be allocated to the ladies. In fact this bit of research was undertaken to honor the Hundredth Anniversary of a masculine venture, namely the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society whose history is described above by Paul Dudley White. This Society is a private association and not a part of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Twenty-three people are now recipients of assistance, some of them for 27 years. It is estimated that at the present time six more could be added if the available funds would be augmented by increased memberships. The funds now amount to only $15,000 a year. Membership fee is five dollars annually.

Shall we not therefore rally round at the call of Paul White, Bill Reggio and Charley Lund who are at this moment lending invaluable aid to at least one family in the Hampden District? It is embarrassing to report that as of now only twelve (12) Hampden District members, or one out of every forty, hold membership also in the M.M.B.S. Hampden needs more two-fisted givers against the evil day. Keep it dark if you wish, but give! As for us, we do and have!

Application blanks for membership in the Benevolent Society are obtainable from (1) Dr. A. William Reggio, School Street, Medfield, Mass., or (2) Dr. Allen G. Rice, 33 School Street, Springfield. They will be available also at our September meeting.

S. Q. Lapius
and
Harold Holleran

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## AUXILIARY DOINGS

The Woman's Auxiliary to the Hampden District Medical Society is getting off to an enthusiastic start by combining an Art Exhibit with its first business meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 1 P. M., at the William Pynchon Memorial Building.

After a short business meeting, tea will be served following which the works of art of members and their families will be viewed. The art show will include original oils, water colors, sketches and miscellaneous. All members are invited to submit their art work.

Mrs. James Visconti is program chairman with Mrs. Setrag Zacarian handling the exhibit.

Mrs. Leslie Parent
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